

Introduction of High Speed Trains

1541. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
 SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
 SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
 SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways to Japan, and who accompanied him during the visit;

(b) whether he has suggested to introduce high speed passenger trains on the lines of Bullet trains of Japan; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether introduction of such trains would be feasible when the Khanna Committee report, which recommended investment on safety measures in Railways, has been shelved because of paucity of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Minister of State (Railways) attended a meeting of the Railway Ministers from China, Iran, Kazakhstan and India on 24th and 25th May in Tokyo, organised under the auspices of the International Union of Railways. Deliberations and discussions took place on various aspects of transport policy including Trans-Asian Rail corridor. Minister of State (Railways) was accompanied by Chairman, Railway Board, Additional Member (Planning), and Executive Director (Public Grievances), attached to the Minister.

(b) and (c) Preliminary discussions were held with Japan Railway East, the leading railway in the high speed passenger transportation, and International Union of Railways (UIC) regarding co-operation in building high speed lines for Indian Railways. Their response has been favourable. As the matter involves high level of investment, lot of deliberations will be required before any concrete proposal is firmed up. Indian Railways are in the process of commissioning studies in all aspects of the project before taking any decision to go in for introducing such trains.